Section II (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend the claims 1-9 and 11 as set out in the following listing of claims 1-12 of the application:

1. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine ~~(10)~~ having a base ~~(12)~~, first mounting means ~~(14, 52; 66)~~ for mounting at least one tube ~~(16)~~ upon the base, second mounting means ~~(20)~~ for mounting a number of fins ~~(22)~~ upon the base, at least one of the first and second mounting means being movable relative to the base, ~~characterised~~ characterized by tensioning means ~~(32, 44)~~ for applying a tensile force to at least part of the tube(s) ~~whilst~~ while the fins are being applied thereto.

2. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the first mounting means ~~(14; 66)~~ is located adjacent one end of the tube(s) ~~(16)~~, and the tensioning means ~~(32, 44)~~ is connected to the other end of the tube(s).

3. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the tensioning means includes a connector ~~(46)~~ secured to the or each tube ~~(16)~~, the connector being connected to a drive means ~~(32)~~, tension being applied to the tube by way of the connector.

4. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 3 in which the connector ~~(46)~~ has a tapered leading end to facilitate passage of the connector, and subsequently the tube ~~(16)~~, through the fins ~~(22)~~.

5. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the second mounting means ~~(20)~~ is substantially fixed relative to the base ~~(12)~~, so that the fins ~~(22)~~ are maintained substantially stationary relative to the base during the finning operation, and in which the tube(s) ~~(16)~~ are driven to move relative to the base and fins.

6. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 5 in which the tube(s) ~~(16)~~ can be driven to move relative to the base and to the tubes solely by the tensioning means ~~(32, 44)~~.

7. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the tensioning means ~~(32,44)~~ is connected to the tube ~~(16)~~ by way of a lip ~~(60)~~ formed at the end ~~(24)~~ of the tube.

8. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the first mounting means includes a mandrel ~~(52)~~ which is located within the tube ~~(16)~~.

9. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 8 in which the mandrel ~~(52)~~ engages the lip ~~(60)~~.

10. (Original) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 having further drive means for imparting a compressive force to the tube.

11. (Currently amended) A method of finning a tube comprising the steps of {i} providing a tube finning machine ~~(10)~~ having a base ~~(12)~~, first mounting means ~~(14, 52; 66)~~ for mounting at least one tube ~~(16)~~ upon the base, second mounting means ~~(20)~~ for mounting a number of fins ~~(22)~~ upon the base, at least one of the first and second mounting means being movable relative to the base, and tensioning means ~~(32, 44, 46)~~ for applying a tensile force to at least part of the tube(s) whilst the fins are being applied thereto, {ii} mounting at least one tube upon the base by way of the first mounting means, {iii} mounting a number of fins upon the base by way of the second mounting means, {iv} actuating the tensioning means to move the tubes relative to the fins.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 in which a solid material is introduced into the gaps between the fins so as to support the fins during the finning process.